

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

It has been said that conglomeratization does not affect the news. If this is true, why is it possible to find the same stories, with the same text, and often the same reporters, appearing on or in all of the televised "news" reports, newspapers and radio stations owned by a single corporation? Why are the working classes and the poor limited as commercial stations, supposedly free, can only be accessed by cable? Why is it so common to find numerous outlets--owned by one of the corporations--ignoring events/issues or story details when complete coverage might effect the profits of one or more non-media businesses owned by the same corporation? Why is lack of variety such a common viewer/reader/listener complaint that comedians can use the dissatisfaction as the topic for a monologue?

Changes in ownership regulations and decisions regarding monopolization have already effected the variety of content to a readily noticable degree.

Recent events have caused citizens to reacknowledge the principles of the American system and the ways in which it differs from other countries.

Protection of these principles has been a cornerstone of this nation. Freedom of information and from monopolization have of vital importance in maintaining the rights of citizenship and democracy. To allow suppression of information and manipulation of the news in order to provide riches for the few, is not what this nation was founded to provide.

The number of channels and outlets does not equal the variety of content supplied--particularly when the supplier's goal is profit rather than service.

Please uphold the ideals with which this nation was founded. Protect the citizens and allow democracy to flourish. Defend freedom of information and protect us from the interests of the few.